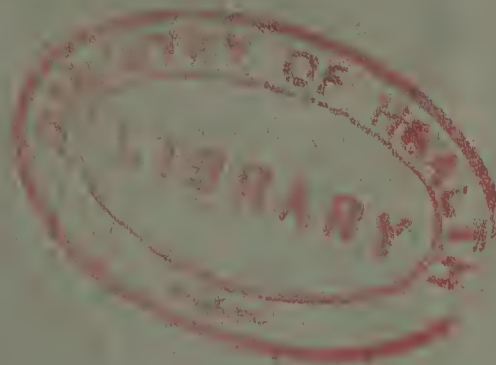




LIBRARY



**BELLINGHAM  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

---

**REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER.**

---

**58th ANNUAL REPORT,  
1937.**



**BELLINGHAM  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

---

**REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER.**

---

**58th ANNUAL REPORT,  
1937.**

---

**J. CATHERAIL AND Co. (Printers), Ltd., Beaumont Street, Hexham.**



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29525032>

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the

### BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937.*

---

The area of Bellingham Rural District remains unchanged at 246,645 acres (380 square miles approx.). According to the Registrar General's figures, the population has fallen from 5,120 to 4,932, a reduction of 88.

The Number of Inhabited Houses in the Area at	
the end of 1937, according to Rate Books ...	1377
Rateable Value .....	£38766
Sum represented by Penny Rate .....	£159

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There has been no increase in industry in the area, with the exception of some activity at Hesleyside Colliery, and the district remains as before entirely rural. There has been an extension of Quarry work near Darney.

The farming industry is carried on on much the same lines as heretofore.

The Forestry Commission are still extending their activities and have purchased and planted or prepared for planting, further large areas.

The Government Training Centre at Kielder is still in full swing, and the two summer centres at Whickhope and Byrness were occupied during the summer months.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births Legitimate .....	72 ...	37 ...	35
„ „ Illegitimate .....	3 ...	1 ...	2
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident			
Population per annum .....			15.20
	Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths .....	1 ...	— ...	1
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births) .....			13.15
	Total	M.	F.
Deaths .....	73 ...	36 ...	37
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident			
Population .....			14.80

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

Puerperal Sepsis .....	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes .....	Nil
Total .....	Nil

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1937 & PREVIOUS YEARS  
NAME OF DISTRICT—BELLINGHAM RURAL.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT					
		Uncor-rected. Number	Nett.	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District. 8	of resi-dents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year		At all Ages.	
										Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1926	5576	88	...	15.7	49	8.7	...	10	7	79.5	59	10.5	
1927	5523	93	...	16.8	59	10.6	...	9	4	43.01	68	12.3	
1928	5440	98	...	18.01	75	13.7	...	7	3	30.6	82	15.7	
1929	5484	90	...	16.4	64	11.6	...	8	8	88.8	72	13.1	
1930	5484	72	...	13.1	55	10.0	...	9	2	27.7	64	11.6	
1931	5106	78	...	15.27	54	10.5	...	12	4	51.28	66	12.92	
1932	5147	66	...	12.82	57	11.07	...	17	5	75.75	74	14.37	
1933	5228	75	...	14.34	57	10.9	...	8	8	106.66	65	12.43	
1934	5197	73	...	14.04	42	8.12	1	19	3	41.09	61	11.73	
1935	5180	57	...	11.00	46	8.88	...	17	1	17.54	63	12.16	
1936	5120	63	...	12.30	41	8.00	...	14	2	31.74	55	10.74	
1937	4932	62	...	15.20	53	0.75	Nil.	20	7	93.33	73	14.30	

Area of District in } 246,645 Acres.  
acres (land and  
inland water)

TABLE 6.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the district.		
	Male	Female	Totals
Other digestive disorders ... ..	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	2	2	4
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth ...	4	2	6
Senility ... ..	3	2	5
Suicide ... ..	—	1	1
Other defined diseases ... ..	—	4	4
Ill-defined or not known diseases ... ..	—	4	4
Diabetes ... ..	2	1	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	1	1	2
Heart Disease ... ..	8	6	14
Other Circulatory diseases ... ..	2	1	3
Bronchitis ... ..	—	2	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	1	2
Influenza ... ..	3	2	5
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	1	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	1	2	3
Cancer ... ..	3	4	7
Totals ... ..	36	37	73

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1937.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 ... ..	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
15 ... ..	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
25 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 ... ..	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
55 ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & upwards ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	4	1	1	2	3	1	1	2



## INFANT MORTALITY, 1937.

### Nett Deaths From Stated Causes at Various Ages Under 1 Year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Premature Birth	3			1	4					4
Status Lymphaticus								1		1
Malformation of skull and brain.	1				1					1
TOTALS	4			1	5			1		6

### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	93.33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births .....	97.22
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births .....	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

During the early part of the year there was a widespread epidemic of influenza, and especially in the Woodburn area, and the sickness rate was very high for a time, but fortunately no deaths resulted from the epidemic.

There is little or no evidence of malnutrition in the area, as the unemployment problem is not acute and the cost of living is comparatively low.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### *Officers of the Rural District Council.*

- (1)—Part-time Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. W. Kirk, M.B., Ch. B.
- (2)—Part-time Sanitary Officer, who also acts as road surveyor under the County Council, H. Moody.

LABORATORY SERVICES.—These remain unchanged.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—A scheme has been inaugurated by the Red Cross at Hexham whereby on payment of a small annual fee of 2/6 to 3/6 the ambulance is made available for the family either free or at a nominal charge. Large numbers of local residents have availed themselves of this arrangement and now the use of local hire cars is much reduced and the ambulance is called upon to a much greater extent.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—This is still carried on very efficiently by six district nurses as heretofore.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.—There are none of these in the area.

HOSPITALS.—There are no hospitals in the area.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.—Beyond one or two local wells and springs for isolated houses, the only attempt made during the year to increase public water supplies has been boring operations near Lanehead with a view to supplying Lanehead and Greenhaugh. The scheme has not yet been concluded.

No chemical or bacteriological analyses of public water supplies have been found necessary during the year.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—There has been no alteration in drainage and sewerage in the area. Bellingham Sewage Disposal Works are still inadequate, and nothing has been done to improve them. The difficulty lies in the fact that some of the premises using the sewers are very little above the level of the septic tanks, and if these were moved to improve matters it would then be a question of pumping sewage to the level of the septic tanks.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS. — There is no pollution of rivers and streams beyond that done by household refuse. Every effort is made to stop this, and there is very little of it done now.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. — The gradual conversion from earth closets to water closets still goes on in the villages, and there is a general improvement in this direction.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The arrangements made before are still in force, and there is a scavenging scheme in all the larger villages.

6. SHOPS.—There are not many shops in the area, and the ventilation and sanitary arrangements appear to be satisfactory. There are only one or two lock-up shops, the rest being attached to dwelling houses.

7. SMOKE ABATEMENT. — As there is no industrial smoke, no action has been necessary.

8. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.—There are no public baths or pools in the area, and bathing is restricted to the rivers in the district.

9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—As Bed Bugs do not appear to exist in the district, no action is necessary.

10. SCHOOLS.—Most of the schools in the area are old, but are in a reasonable sanitary condition, and with fairly good water supplies.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLIES.—Samples are taken at intervals, and, where unsatisfactory, supplies from the same are stopped until contamination is eradicated.

2. MEATS AND OTHER FOODS.—Periodical inspections of slaughter-houses and shops are made. The number of animals killed is not known, and no definite numbers of carcasses inspected can be given, but no carcase or part of a carcase has had to be condemned for any reason during the year.

3. ADULTERATION, ETC.—Samples are taken at intervals by the Food and Drugs Inspector, but no adverse reports have been received.

## CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out at the County Laboratory at Newburn-on-Tyne.

4. NUTRITION.—No action has been taken to spread information on this subject.

5. SHELLFISH.—There are no shellfish beds in the area.



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The year was marked by the comparative absence of notifiable infectious disease. Only 13 cases of scarlet fever (nearly all of which were isolated cases) and 9 cases of pneumonia were notified. On the other hand, there was a severe epidemic of influenza in the months of February and March.

The Woodburn area was particularly severely hit, but fortunately there were no deaths.

Diphtheria antitoxin has now been supplied by the Council for some time, and is used as early as possible in cases of Diphtheria.

Since the supply of Scarlatina Antitoxin by the Council came into force, it has been used on most cases and on contacts, and on each occasion it has helped largely to limit or stamp out a local epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

No widespread effort has been made to inoculate children against Diphtheria, as a large number were done in the previous year. Measles serum has not been used.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	13	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	9	...	...

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been necessary relating to tubercular persons in the milk trade, and it has not been found necessary to compulsorily remove any tubercular person.

Your obedient servant,

GEO. W. KIRK.



## Bellingham Rural District Council

## HOUSING (Consolidated) REGULATIONS, 1925.

TABULAR STATEMENT as required by Article 31, for Year 1937.

**HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—**

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority .....	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ....	—	8	8

**1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	210
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	210
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	6
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	6
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	None
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ....	12

**2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers. ....	10
---	----

**3.—Action Under Statutory Powers:—**

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs. ....	12
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners .....	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	None
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	48
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners .....	48
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	None
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	None
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	None
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	None

**4.—Number of Houses Permanently Discontinued as Dwellings and Not Included Above .....**

None

(Signed) H. Moody,

Inspector.



SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED, 1937.

	Bellingham Rural District. Inspector—H. MOODY.	After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished ...	14	...	2	16
	„ repaired ...	3	...	...	3
	Privy ashpits abolished ...	14	...	2	16
	„ „ roofed or repaired	2	...	...	2
	Pail-closets abolished ...	2	...	2	4
	Water closets provided ...	14	...	2	16
	„ „ repaired ...	10	...	...	10
	Sanitary bins provided ...	6	...	...	6
	„ „ renewed ...	10	...	...	10
Drainage	New drains constructed ...	4	...	...	4
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	6	6	...	12
	Additional gullies provided ...	3	...	...	3
	Old gullies replaced... ...	3	...	...	3
	Scullery sinks provided ...	2	...	...	2
	„ waste pipes repaired ...	2	...	...	2
	„ „ trapped ...	...	...	...	...
	Yards repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...
Water supply	Sources closed or discontinued, —	No. of houses affected, —			
	New service provided ... 2		„	„	5
RIVERS POLLUTION—		Particulars—			
Cases detected	—	„	...	...	—
Remedied ...	—	„	...	...	—
S.D. Works provided	—	„	...	...	—

FOOD INSPECTION, 1937.

UNSOUND FOOD.				Surrendered <sup>a</sup>	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef—Home-killed		Stones	...	...		
„ Imported	...	„		...		
Mutton—Home-killed		„		...		
„ Imported		„		...		
Pork	...	...	„	...		
Bacon	...	...	Lbs. ...	...		
Fruit	...	...	Lbs ...	...		
Other Foods	...	...		...		

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district ..... 25  
 Approximate number of cows kept ..... 100







